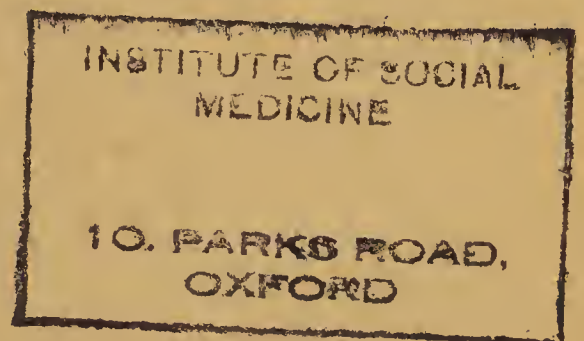


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CITY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## School Health Service



# Report

of the

## School Medical Officer

for the Year

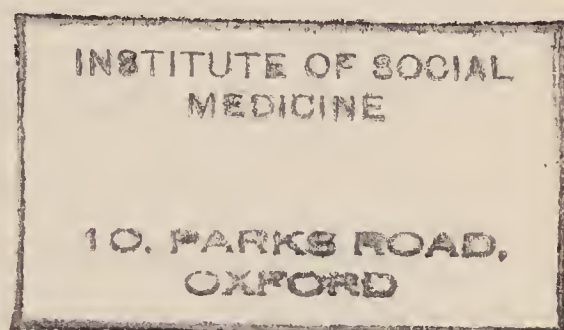
# 1948

**J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.**  
School Medical Officer.




COUNTY BOROUGH OF WEST BROMWICH  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

School Health Service



**Report**  
of the  
**School Medical Officer**  
for the Year  
**1948**

**J. TUDOR LEWIS, M.D., D.P.H.**  
School Medical Officer.



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**WEST BROMWICH EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**at 31st December, 1948.**

*Chairman* : Councillor A. Medley.

*Deputy Chairman* : Councillor A. E. Onions.

**SCHOOL HEALTH AND ATTENDANCE**  
**SUB-COMMITTEE.**

*Chairman* : Councillor Miss C. E. Hazel, J.P.

*Deputy Chairman* : Councillor Mrs. N. Sutton.

The Mayor, Alderman G. C. W.  
 Jones, J.P.

Councillor A. E. Onions.

Councillor Mrs. R. Parfitt.

Alderman Mrs. E. A. Smallman, J.P.

Councillor Mrs. G. Wilkes.

Councillor R. Bailey.

B. Smith, Esq.

Councillor Mrs. E. M. Carpenter.

G. H. Woodward, Esq.

Councillor Mrs. E. W. Grant.

Mrs. M. Sparrow.

Councillor A. Medley.

Miss G. West.

*Director of Education* : Leonard G. Rose, B.Sc.

**STAFF OF SCHOOL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

*School Medical Officer* : J. Tudor Lewis, M.D., D.P.H.

*Senior Assistant School Medical Officer* : C. W. D. Cole, M.R.C.S.,  
 L.R.C.P.

*Assistant School Medical Officer* : W. J. Morrissey, M.B., B.Ch.,  
 D.P.H.

*Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon* : Jane Parker-Smith, M.B., Ch.B.,  
 D.O.M.S.



### **Dental Officers.**

*Senior Dental Officer :* G. J. S. Littlefield, L.D.S.

*Assistant Dental Officers :* A. H. Bosworth, L.D.S. (part-time from 30-9-48).

T. S. Holt, L.D.S. (till 30-5-48).

E. Sternbach, M.D., L.D.S. (till 31-8-48).

### **School Nurses.**

Miss K. Perryer (Superintendent). Miss M. E. Blakey.

Miss G. S. Gedrych.

Miss M. E. Greasley.

Miss I. John.

Miss E. J. M. Jones.

Miss M. E. Jones.

Miss E. King.

Mrs. C. Paskin.

Miss E. Fisher.

### **Clinic Nurses.**

Miss B. While.

Miss J. Collett.

### **Clerks.**

Miss G. E. Clark.

Miss B. Gorton.

Miss M. Reeves.

### **Clerks and Dental Attendants.**

Miss M. Adams.

Miss S. E. Jesson.

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the annual report on the School Health Service of West Bromwich for the year 1948.

It is pleasing to be able to report, so far at least as the medical side of the work is concerned, a continued gradual improvement in the well-being of the school children. The general state of nutrition was maintained and if anything slightly improved. There was a reduction in the total number of infectious diseases, whooping cough being the only disease which showed any substantial increase. So far as the other matters dealt with in the report are concerned, there is little outstanding change to record.

Unfortunately, this cannot be said of the dental work. The two full-time officers resigned in May and August respectively, and for the remainder of the year there were no full time dental officers available. It was necessary to close the Stone Cross Clinic, and treatment such as it is, has been concentrated at the Central Clinic. The treatment given is inevitably limited to the alleviation of pain and dealing with the more gross dental diseases. It is very disheartening to have to state that the progress which I was able to record last year has been almost completely lost, and the dental care of West Bromwich children, so far as progressive conservative treatment is concerned, is virtually non-existent. Every effort to recruit dentists to our staff has failed, although I am glad to be able to say that one of the local dentists has very kindly given us whatever assistance has been in his power.

The National Health Service Act came into operation on July 5th, 1948. The changes brought about by that Act, so far as the West Bromwich School Health Service is concerned, have been few, for the hospitals and the school health service were already closely co-ordinated, and practically all the consultant work for school children was already being carried out at the hospitals. The mere passing of the hospitals to the ownership of the state, therefore had little effect on our arrangements. Those for dealing with errors of refraction continued as previously under a financial adjustment arrived at with the local Executive Council.

One interesting point arose which was fully discussed with the local general practitioners. After July 5th, every school child was eligible for its family doctor, and many parents no doubt took advantage of the new facilities, but many children

were also attending at school clinics or were already under observation or supervision by the school health service. There was an obvious danger of duplication, for the school health service might find itself dealing with children who were being treated or supervised by their own doctor. To discuss these matters, arrangements were made for the local school health medical staff to meet the local doctors, and a most congenial and profitable meeting was held. In general it was agreed that every effort should be made by the school health medical officers to ascertain if a child was already attending his own doctor. Where minor ailments were concerned, the doctors in general were quite happy to leave the child in the care of the minor ailments clinic for they felt it would relieve them of a good deal of routine work. For conditions which were of a non-minor character, the principle agreed on was that there should be a flow of information between the School Health Department and the local doctors. That is to say, where the school health service was concerned with a school child known to be attending his family doctor, the doctor should be kept fully informed. This was a very reasonable requirement, and we have tried our best to carry it out.

Another problem which arose as a result of the National Health Service Act, was the setting up of a child guidance clinic. It can be argued that this is a psychiatric service which should be the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. On the other hand, there are many features of a child guidance clinic which are as much educational as medical. In any case, the shortage of qualified and experienced staff for child guidance clinics makes their provision or expansion at the present time very difficult, although this remains one of our needs in West Bromwich. Fortunately, we have been able to arrange for some of our cases to be seen in Birmingham.

I should like again to thank all members of the staff of the School Health Department for their assistance throughout the year, and the Director of Education, his staff and the head teachers of the schools, for their help and co-operation in all matters affecting the health of the school child. The Chairman and members of the School Health and Attendance Sub-Committee have as usual taken a most acute and discerning interest in the various matters I have brought before them, and I should like to thank them for their unfailing courtesy, help and encouragement.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. TUDOR LEWIS,

*School Medical Officer.*

June, 1949.



## SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL POPULATION.

|                                       |    |    |    |    |         |
|---------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|---------|
| School Population 1948 (Estimated)    |    |    |    |    | .13,000 |
| No. of Primary Schools in the Borough | .. | .. |    |    | 19      |
| No. of Secondary Schools              | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6       |
| No. of Special Schools                | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1       |
| No. of Grammar Schools                | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1       |
| No. of Art Schools                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1       |
| No. of Technical Colleges             | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1       |
| No. of Secondary Technical Schools    | .. | .. | .. |    | 1       |

## SCHOOL HYGIENE.

During 1948 the following hygienic improvements were carried out :—

1. New out offices were provided for the Infants' and Junior Boys' and new internal sanitary arrangements were provided in the nursery class room at Beeches Road School.
2. Two additional out offices were provided at the Bratt Street Special School (E.S.N.).
3. A cloakroom in the Boys' Department was converted into showers and an air raid shelter into a gymnasium at Spon Lane School.

Consideration was given to the installation of electric light throughout Golds Hill School but the Ministry of Education considered that the limited life of the building did not warrant such provision. Improvements were carried out to the existing gas installation.

## MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

Full details of the work carried out will be found in the tables at the end of the report. In the following sections attention is drawn to the main items of interest or importance.

(a) SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS. (See Table I.).

A total of 3,653 children were inspected during the year, as compared with a total of 3,744 children in the previous year.

The total number of special inspections and re-inspections during 1948 was 4,134 compared with 3,182 in 1947.

(b) NUTRITION. (See Table II.).

Table II gives the results of the classification of those children examined during the year for their nutritional state. Of the 3,653 children examined, 62.17% were regarded as being of "Good" nutrition compared with 68.59% in the previous year. 35.56% were of "Fair" nutrition compared with 26.92% in 1947 and 2.27% were of "Poor" nutrition compared with 4.49% in the year preceding. The diminution in the proportion showing "Good" nutrition is, I think, within the limits of normal variation, but the increase in those showing "Fair" nutrition is gratifying, as is the diminution in those showing "Poor" nutrition. Closer examination of the results relating to the different age groups shows that, if anything, the entrants are the least well-nourished. There tends to be a slight improvement in the later age-groups. This suggests that the attendance at school and the benefits obtained from receiving milk and school meals are contributory causes of the improvement. On the whole it may be said that the nutrition of the school children for 1948 was maintained and showed a slight improvement.

(c) INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

In 1948, 26,129 examinations for uncleanness were carried out by the school nurses, and of these 940 pupils were found to be infested with vermin. It was not necessary to institute proceedings under the Education Act in respect of any children during the year.

The problem of uncleanness in the schools continues to be one of considerable difficulty, necessitating the constant vigilance and regular examinations by the school nurses. There is little doubt that but for this attention and the anxiety of the head teachers to prevent uncleanness amongst their pupils, the amount of infestation with vermin would be much increased.

(d) MINOR AILMENTS. (See Table III).

A total of 3,652 cases were treated for minor ailments compared with 3,526 in the previous year. Only three cases of ringworm of the scalp were encountered and ten cases of ringworm of the body. Scabies was diagnosed in 67 children. Minor eye conditions amounted to 105 cases.

There was an increase in the number of cases treated for minor ailments, in spite of the fact that, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, all children since July 5th were eligible for treatment, either by their own doctors or at the

hospitals. It will be interesting to see in the succeeding years what difference the National Health Service Act has upon the attendances at school minor ailments clinics.

(e) DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINTS.

283 cases were examined for errors of refraction, and spectacles were prescribed in 217 cases. Cases requiring operation or orthoptic treatment for squint were referred to the West Bromwich and District General Hospital, and the total number of pupils treated was 125.

(f) TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF THE NOSE AND THROAT.

The arrangements were continued as in previous years whereby children requiring treatment for nose and throat conditions were operated on at Hallam Hospital.

(g) TREATMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

Treatment was continued at Hallam Hospital on the usual lines under the supervision of Mr. J. B. Leather.

*Summary of Work at Remedial Exercises Clinic.*

|                                     |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|-------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| No. of sessions                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 142   |
| No. of patients (Boys 22, Girls 31) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 53    |
| No. of attendances                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,005 |

*Treatment by Artificial Sunlight.*

The ultra violet light clinics were continued during the year, the total number of school children treated numbered 102 and attendances 1,691, compared with 191 and 2,714 respectively in 1947.

## PROVISION OF MEALS IN SCHOOLS.

The total number of meals served during the year (together with the figures for the preceding year) are set out below :—

|  | 1948                | 1947                |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Meals for payment                      | 752,149             | 626,938             |
| Free meals                             | 71,561              | 58,341              |
| Meals supplied to teachers and helpers | 53,056              | 48,344              |
|  | <hr/> 876,766 <hr/> | <hr/> 733,623 <hr/> |

The charge of 5d. per meal to scholars was maintained throughout the year under review.



During the year the approval of the Ministry of Education was received to the erection of kitchen dining rooms at Hamstead and Hill Top Schools. An appeal was forwarded to the Regional Priority Officer setting out a case for the early completion of the two projects, together with Charlemont kitchen/dining room, without success, since priority had been given to the completion of the HORSAs Programme. It is expected that work will be commenced on Charlemont and Hamstead kitchen/dining rooms during 1949. To extend the dining facilities for Lyng School, a classroom which had been converted into a dining room was opened on the 1st March, 1948, and the inadequate washing-up facilities at Hill Top School were replaced by the conversion of a cloakroom into a wash-up. This was opened in September, 1948.

In addition, consideration has been given to extending dining facilities at other schools and schemes have been submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Education in respect of the following :—

1. The erection of a servery and wash-up adjacent to the Junior Girls' Hall at Guns Village School—to be opened in 1949.
2. The setting up of an additional dining room for the Infants' Department at Black Lake School—to be opened early in 1949.
3. The erection of a servery and scullery to the dining hut at All Saints' School—building work will be commenced early in 1949.

Consideration has also been given to future developments and a proposal has been submitted to, and approved by the Ministry of Education for the erection of a dining room and scullery in Lodge Estate School playground to provide 400 meals daily for pupils attending the Grammar School.

The scheme for the provision of free meals to necessitous pupils was continued during the year and in this respect a review of the existing income scale was carried out and a new income scale was submitted to and approved by the Ministry of Education. The new income scale is far more generous in application to the cases where free meals are recommended.



## MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME.

During 1948 the number of one-third pint bottles of milk supplied free to pupils was 2,264,993.

The administration of the scheme to provide one pint of milk daily at a cost of 1½d. to children who were unable, by reason of disability of mind or body to attend school, was continued.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### (a) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

180 children were immunised during the year, and a supplementary injection was given to 910. It is estimated that 87% of the school population is now protected against this disease.

### (b) INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The incidence of infectious disease in the schools is shown in the table below. It will be seen that there was a substantial reduction in the cases of Scarlet Fever, and that with the exception of Whooping Cough, which showed an increase, there was little change in the incidence of other diseases. Six cases of Diphtheria were notified.

| <i>Disease</i>                  | <i>1st<br/>Qr.</i> | <i>2nd<br/>Qr.</i> | <i>3rd<br/>Qr.</i> | <i>4th<br/>Qr.</i> | <i>Total<br/>1948</i> | <i>Total<br/>1947</i> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Scarlet Fever ..                | 27                 | 25                 | 13                 | 25                 | 90                    | 133                   |
| Diphtheria ..                   | 1                  | —                  | 1                  | 4                  | 6                     | 11                    |
| Pneumonia ..                    | 1                  | 1                  | 3                  | 4                  | 9                     | 5                     |
| Whooping Cough                  | 5                  | 15                 | 15                 | 22                 | 57                    | 26                    |
| Measles ..                      | 5                  | 17                 | 65                 | 65                 | 152                   | 302                   |
| Chicken Pox ..                  | —                  | —                  | —                  | 1                  | 1                     | —                     |
| Cerebro Spinal<br>Meningitis .. | —                  | —                  | 1                  | —                  | 1                     | 1                     |
| Poliomyelitis ..                | 1                  | —                  | —                  | —                  | 1                     | —                     |

## MORTALITY IN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

| <i>Cause of Death.</i>         | <i>No.</i> |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Whooping Cough .. .. .         | 1          |
| Pneumonia .. .. .              | 1          |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever .. .. .   | 1          |
| Other Defined Diseases .. .. . | 4          |
| Road Accidents .. .. .         | 3          |
| Total .. .. .                  | 10         |

This compares with 9 deaths in 1947.

## HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

## (a) CATEGORIES OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

These are shown in the following table :—

| <i>Category</i>                     | <i>In<br/>Special<br/>school.</i> | <i>In<br/>main-<br/>tained<br/>school.</i> | <i>In<br/>Inde-<br/>pendent<br/>school.</i> | <i>Not at<br/>school.</i> | <i>TOTAL.</i> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---------------|
| Blind ... ..                        | 4                                 | —  | 1   | —                         | 5             |
| Partially Sighted ... ..            | 1                                 | —  | —   | —                         | 1             |
| Deaf ... ..                         | 7                                 | —  | —   | —                         | 7             |
| Partially Deaf ... ..               | 1                                 | 1  | —   | —                         | 2             |
| Delicate ... ..                     | 1                                 | 108  | —   | 4                         | 113           |
| Educationally Sub-<br>normal ... .. | 57                                | —  | —   | —                         | 57            |
| Epileptic ... ..                    | 2                                 | —  | —   | —                         | 2             |
| Maladjusted ... ..                  | 1                                 | 2  | 2   | —                         | 5             |
| Physically Handi-<br>capped ... ..  | 5                                 | 45   | 2   | 7                         | 59            |
| Speech Defects ... ..               | —                                 | 4  | —   | —                         | 4             |
| Multiple Disabilities ... ..        | 2                                 | 4  | 1   | —                         | 7             |
| Total ... ..                        | 81                                | 164  | 6   | 11                        | 262           |

There is no open-air school for delicate children in West Bromwich, but we are fortunate in being able to arrange for a number of our cases to attend the "Hollies," Smethwick. There is no doubt that in a town of this size, facilities should be available for the open-air education of those children who are delicate or suffering from malnutrition or other diseases such as bronchitis, asthma, and similar conditions.

The educationally subnormal children are educated at the Special School, an account of the work of which is appended.

As mentioned in last year's report, considerable difficulty is experienced in dealing with maladjusted children and those in need of child guidance. Conversations took place with representatives of the County Borough of Smethwick Education Committee in the hope of organising a joint child guidance clinic for the two Authorities. Up to the time of writing, however, no concrete proposals have been agreed. This is a matter which must be thought of in relation to the responsibilities of the Regional Hospital Boards and also to the difficulty at the present stage of recruiting qualified and experienced staff such as psychiatrists, educational psychologists, and a psychiatric social worker.

(b) EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL AND MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.

Formal examinations were carried out in 29 cases ; 14 children were re-examined. The findings were as follows : For notification under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944, for the purpose of the Mental Deficiency Act :

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Idiots .. .. .                                     | 4 |
| Imbeciles .. .. .                                  | 5 |
| Educationally Sub-normal :                         |   |
| To remain in Special School .. .. .                | 4 |
| For statutory supervision on leaving school ..     | 9 |
| For admission to Special School .. .. .            | 5 |
| For special education in ordinary school .. ..     | 5 |
| Retarded : To continue in ordinary school .. ..    | 5 |
| Normal : To continue in ordinary school .. ..      | 3 |
| Maladjusted : To continue in ordinary school .. .. | 3 |

*Report on the Activities of the Special School (E.S.N.).*

For the Special School, 1948, has been a year of preparation and planning for anticipated developments expansion. In May, a fully qualified handicraft teacher with many years' experience in Special School work was appointed to the staff of the school. It has thus been possible to extend the manual instruction which now includes woodwork, leatherwork, and metalwork.

The number of pupils throughout the year has been about 60 and absences due to ill-health have been small.

With a desire to eliminate any feeling of segregation on the part of the scholars, boys and girls were entered in the West Bromwich schools' sports and a football team was selected to play in the Birmingham Special Schools' League.



All children took part in an outing to the seaside in June and groups have been taken into the country for rambles; to the Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon and to a Special School in Birmingham.

The Bratt Street Infants' School was closed at the end of July and the whole of the building thus became available for the expansion of the Special School. A complete scheme of decoration was carried out during the summer holidays.

On August 31st, the headmistress resigned and her place was taken by a headmaster, who as a class teacher, had been in charge of the senior boys of the school. It is planned to increase the number of children on the roll to 80 in 1949, and for that purpose an assistant master has been appointed and will take up his duties in the near future.

All children partake of a hot mid-day meal at school and it is proposed that the feeding of the children shall be undertaken by the School Meals Service.

(c) SPEECH DEFECTS.

Four children had speech defects which were sufficiently bad for them to be regarded as handicapped. Difficulties are experienced in arranging speech therapy as there is a serious shortage of qualified speech therapists.

(d) DEAF AND PARTIALLY DEAF CHILDREN.

As mentioned in last year's report, an important part of the work is the ascertainment of children who are deaf or partially deaf. Consideration was given to the possibility of purchasing an audiometer for the group-testing of children, but unfortunately enquiries showed that experience in another local authority had not been very satisfactory with the type of audiometer which was available. It was decided, therefore, not to proceed with the purchase.

It is hoped that when a more suitable apparatus is available a purchase may be made.



## SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

REPORT BY MR. G. J. S. LITTLEFIELD, L.D.S.,  
SENIOR DENTAL OFFICER.

I have pleasure in submitting the annual report on the School Dental Service for the year ended 31st December, 1948. Staff shortage has again seriously retarded the work of the dental clinics. Mr. T. S. Holt resigned on 31st May, and Mr. E. Sternbach on 31st August, and for the remainder of the year there have been no full time officers. Stone Cross Clinic had to be closed and all treatment concentrated on the Central Clinic. This disruption of the service occurred at a particularly unfortunate time. We undertook increased responsibilities under the National Health Service Act which became operative on 5th July, and we found ourselves quite unable fully to implement our obligations under the Act. It was also found that a large percentage of the new entrants into the schools after the summer holiday (the 1943 class) were dentally defective and there were many who required multiple extractions of deciduous teeth. From June to August we were able to secure the services part-time of Mr. M. A. Bassett, L.D.S., R.C.S., one of the dental officers of the Smethwick authority. In September, Mr. Bosworth, L.D.S., a local private practitioner, agreed to give us one session per week which, with the assistance of the medical officers, Dr. Cole and Dr. Morrissey, was devoted to gas cases. During the year, 36 sessions were devoted to school inspections, 24 school departments were visited and 6,585 children were examined. This represents approximately half the school population. Of this number 3,121 (or 47.4%) were referred for treatment. This compares with 57% for last year, but it does not represent a 10% improvement in the dental condition of the teeth. Staff shortage again compelled an even stricter policy of selective treatment than last year in order to make the fullest and most efficient use of the limited service available. The acceptance rate was 58%, the same as last year.

Over the whole year, the equivalent of only 1.3 full time officers were employed for all the Authority's dental services, but since August 30th, the figure was .63 based again on 500 sessions per officer per year.

|  | 1948 | 1947 |
|--|------|------|
| Average no. of attendances per treatment session .. .. . | 8.7  | 8.3  |
| Average no. of fillings per session .. .. .              | 3.1  | 4.2  |
| Average no. of extractions per treatment session .. .. . | 7.0  | 6.4  |

The number of sessions devoted to treatment was 510 and in addition 44 sessions were worked by dental officers acting solely as anaesthetists at gas sessions. The total number of attendances made at the clinics was 4,442 of which 3,871 were for treatment.

“ Other operations ” include gum, silver nitrate, and root canal treatments, dressings, scalings, adjustments to orthodontic appliances, and six dentures and four crowns were supplied to replace front teeth lost through accident or gross caries.

The orthodontic scheme has expanded and there are now 13 cases under treatment and a waiting list of 12. New orthodontic appliances supplied numbered 22. Again, I am indebted to the staff of the Orthodontic Department of the Birmingham Dental Hospital for much help and advice during the year. When staff permits of undertaking all the orthodontic work necessary, consideration might be given to the appointment of a consultant orthodontist who could attend specially convened sessions at the clinics to see cases and advise both before and during treatment.

I am pleased to report that progress has been made in the equipping of a second surgery at the Central Clinic and in the replacement of certain items of major equipment in the other surgeries by modern units.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to all head teachers and the professional, nursing and clerical staff of the school health service for their continued co-operation and active help during the year. In particular, I should like to express my thanks to the County Borough of Smethwick Education Committee, to Mr. Bassett and to Mr. Bosworth for the assistance they have given.

## SCHOOL CAMP.

Since 1946 groups of West Bromwich pupils have been allowed to spend periods of two weeks at the Smethwick School Camp, Ribbesford, Near Bewdley. During the period 6th August to 12th November, 1948, the Education Committee were permitted to send four parties of pupils, two parties of 60 and 30 girls and two parties of 60 and 30 boys, a total of 180.

## EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

|   | <i>Boys</i> | <i>Girls</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|---|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>(a) EMPLOYED CHILDREN (13—15) YEARS.</i>                 |             |              |              |
| No. of new registrations :                                  |             |              |              |
| Delivery of newspapers or milk                              | 46          | 3            | 49           |
| Errands and light shop duties ..                            | 16          | —            | 16           |
| Child performers .. .. .                                    | —           | 7            | 7            |
| No. of licences surrendered or expired :                    |             |              |              |
| Delivery of newspapers or milk ..                           | 25          | —            | 25           |
| Errands and light shop duties ..                            | 3           | —            | 3            |
| <i>(b) STREET TRADING BY YOUNG PERSONS (16—18 YEARS).</i>   |             |              |              |
| Licences issued .. .. .                                     | —           | —            | —            |
| Licences surrendered .. .. .                                | —           | —            | —            |
| <i>(c) OFFENCES.</i>  |             |              |              |
| No. of offences against byelaws reported .. .. .            |             |              | 17           |
| No. of warning notices issued to employers and parents ..   |             |              | 24           |
| <i>(d) PROSECUTIONS .. .. .</i>                             |             |              | nil          |
| <i>(e) MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.</i>                            |             |              |              |
| No. submitted .. .. .                                       | 81          | 15           | 96           |
| No. passed .. .. .  | 68          | 12           | 80           |
| No. failed .. .. .  | 11          | 2            | 13           |
| No. did not attend (withdrawn, jobs given up, etc.) .. .. . | 2           | 1            | 3            |



## CO-OPERATION OF PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTARY BODIES.

The number of parents attending routine medical inspections was 2,710 or 74.2% of the children examined.

Again tribute must be paid to the teachers and school attendance officers for the valuable assistance rendered to the Department.

Our thanks again are recorded for the continued assistance rendered by the Poor Children's Welfare Society and the Rotary Club. Five children were sent by the Society to the Southport Convalescent Home for periods of one or two months, and in addition 102 necessitous children were supplied with footwear. Under arrangements made by the Rotary Club, six boys were sent to the Convalescent Home, Weston-super-Mare.

Much help was rendered to the Department by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children through the medium of Inspector Lewis.

On a number of occasions during the year, the School Medical Officer or the Assistant School Medical Officers were invited to address Parent-Teacher Associations at various schools. This continues to be a very useful means of discussing with parents and teachers the health problems which they encounter. In all these discussions the School Medical Officer received considerable stimulus and help both from parents and teachers, and it is hoped that the information which he was able to give was of help to the school staff and the parents themselves.

It is hoped that this means of maintaining contact between the staff of the school health service, the teachers in the schools and the parents will be continued, by arranging for periodic visits for members of the staff to discussion groups in the schools.



# MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS.

TABLE I.

## MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

### A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of inspections in the prescribed groups :

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Entrants .. .. .         | 1,365 |
| Second age group .. .. . | 1,068 |
| Third age group .. .. .  | 1,025 |
| Total .. .. .            | 3,458 |

Number of other periodic inspections .. .. . 195

Grand Total .. .. . 3,653

### B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Number of special inspections .. .. . | 2,115 |
| Number of re-inspections .. .. .      | 1,919 |
| Total .. .. .                         | 4,134 |

### C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PUPILS FOUND AT PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding Dental Diseases and Infestation with Vermin).

| <i>Group.</i>                        | <i>For defective vision (excluding squint)</i> | <i>For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA</i> | <i>Total individual pupils</i> |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| (1)                                  | (2)  | (3)  | (4)                            |
| Entrants .. .. .                     | 9  | 238  | 246                            |
| Second age group .. .. .             | 68   | 107  | 173                            |
| Third age group .. .. .              | 67   | 109  | 168                            |
| Total (prescribed groups) .. .. .    | 144  | 454  | 587                            |
| Other periodical inspections .. .. . | 11   | 15   | 26                             |
| Grand Total .. .. .                  | 155  | 469  | 613                            |

TABLE II.

## A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION.

| <i>Defect or Disease</i> | PERIODIC INSPECTIONS       |  | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS        |  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|                          | <i>No. of defects</i>      |  | <i>No. of defects</i>      |  |
|                          | <i>Requiring treatment</i> | <i>Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment</i> | <i>Requiring treatment</i> | <i>Requiring to be kept under observation, but not requiring treatment</i> |
| (1)                      | (2)                        | (3)  | (4)                        | (5)  |
| Skin ... ..              | 65                         | 10   | 276                        | 1  |
| Eyes—(a) Vision          | 180                        | 47   | 52                         | 3  |
| (b) Squint               | 47                         | 3  | 16                         | 2  |
| (c) Other ...            | 13                         | 4  | 86                         | 1  |
| Ears—(a) Hearing...      | 9                          | 16   | 3                          | 6  |
| (b) Otitis               |                            |  |                            |  |
| Media                    | 21                         | 16   | 114                        | 1  |
| (c) Other ...            | 1                          | 2  | 69                         | 9  |
| Nose or Throat ...       | 168                        | 130  | 122                        | 39   |
| Speech ... ..            | 3                          | 9  | 3                          | —  |
| Cervical Glands ...      | 2                          | 10   | 5                          | 13   |
| Heart and Circulation    | —                          | 49   | 19                         | 24   |
| Lungs ... ..             | 28                         | 144  | 3                          | 56   |
| Developmental—           |                            |  |                            |  |
| (a) Hernia ...           | 3                          | —  | —                          | 2  |
| (b) Other ...            | 1                          | 1  | —                          | —  |
| Orthopaedic—             |                            |  |                            |  |
| (a) Posture ...          | 5                          | 27   | 3                          | 1  |
| (b) Flat foot ...        | 22                         | 32   | 21                         | 5  |
| (c) Other ...            | 19                         | 34   | 5                          | 13   |
| Nervous system—          |                            |  |                            |  |
| (a) Epilepsy ...         | 1                          | 16   | —                          | —  |
| (b) Other ...            | 2                          | 8  | —                          | 17   |
| Psychological—           |                            |  |                            |  |
| (a) Development          | 3                          | 16   | —                          | 1  |
| (b) Stability ...        | 5                          | 51   | —                          | 5  |
| Other ... ..             | 32                         | 91   | 361                        | 175  |

TABLE II—*continued.*

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION  
OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE  
AGE GROUPS.

| <i>Age Groups</i>             | <i>No. of<br/>Pupils<br/>In-<br/>spected</i> | <i>A.<br/>(Good)</i> |                        | <i>B.<br/>(Fair)</i> |                        | <i>C.<br/>(Poor)</i> |                        |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
|                               |  | <i>No.</i>           | <i>% of<br/>col. 2</i> | <i>No.</i>           | <i>% of<br/>col. 2</i> | <i>No.</i>           | <i>% of<br/>col. 2</i> |
| (1)                           | (2)  | (3)                  | (4)                    | (5)                  | (6)                    | (7)                  | (8)                    |
| Entrants ...                  | 1365   | 795                  | 58.242                 | 532                  | 38.974                 | 38                   | 2.784                  |
| Second age<br>group ...       | 1068   | 667                  | 62.45                  | 388                  | 36.33                  | 13                   | 1.22                   |
| Third age group               | 1025   | 664                  | 64.78                  | 332                  | 32.39                  | 29                   | 2.83                   |
| Other periodic<br>inspections | 195  | 145                  | 74.36                  | 47                   | 24.1                   | 3                    | 1.54                   |
| Total ...                     | 3653   | 2271                 | 62.17                  | 1299                 | 35.56                  | 83                   | 2.27                   |

TABLE III.  
TREATMENT TABLES.

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS (excluding Uncleanliness,  
for which see Table V.).

| (a)   |  |  |  |    | Number of<br>defects treated,<br>or under<br>treatment during<br>the year. |       |
|---|--|--|--|----|--|-------|
| SKIN  |  |  |  |    |  |       |
| Ringworm—Scalp—   |  |  |  |    |  |       |
| (i) X-ray treatment   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | —     |
| (ii) Other treatment  |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 3     |
| Ringworm—Body   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 10    |
| Scabies   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 67    |
| Impetigo  |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 132   |
| Other skin diseases   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 20    |
| Eye Disease   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 166   |
| (External and other, but excluding<br>errors of refraction, squint and cases<br>admitted to hospital) |  |  |  |    |  |       |
| Ear Defects   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 105   |
| Miscellaneous   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 3,149 |
| (e.g., minor injuries, bruises, sores,<br>chilblains, etc.)   |  |  |  |    |  |       |
| Total   |  |  |  | .. | ..   | 3,652 |

(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's  
minor ailments clinics .. .. 18,013



TABLE III—*continued.*

## GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

(excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—  
Group I).

|  |    |    |    |    | <i>No. of defects<br/>dealt with.</i> |
|--|----|----|----|----|---------------------------------------|
| Errors of refraction (including squint)                                      | .. | .. |    |    | 283                                   |
| Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those<br>recorded in Group I) | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4                                     |
| Total  | .. | .. | .. | .. | 287                                   |
| <hr/>  |    |    |    |    |                                       |
| No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were                                       |    |    |    |    |                                       |
| (a) Prescribed   | .. | .. | .. | .. | 271                                   |
| (b) Obtained   | .. | .. | .. | .. | 156                                   |
|  |    |    |    |    | (to July 5th)                         |

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE  
AND THROAT.

|  |    |    |    |    | <i>Total number<br/>treated.</i> |
|--|----|----|----|----|----------------------------------|
| Received operative treatment—            |    |    |    |    |                                  |
| (a) For adenoids and chronic tonsillitis | .. |    |    |    | 265                              |
| (b) For other nose and throat conditions | .. |    |    |    | —                                |
| Received other forms of treatment        | .. | .. | .. |    | 6                                |
| Total                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 271                              |

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL  
DEFECTS.

|  |    |    |    |    |    |
|--|----|----|----|----|----|
| (a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or<br>hospital schools                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 9  |
| (b) No. treated otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , in clinics or out-<br>patient departments | .. | .. | .. |    | 73 |

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND  
SPEECH THERAPY.

|                                       |    |  |  |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|----|--|--|--|---|
| No. of pupils treated—                |    |  |  |  |   |
| (a) Under child guidance arrangements | .. |  |  |  | 3 |
| (b) Under speech therapy arrangements | .. |  |  |  | — |

TABLE IV.

## DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—

|   |    |    |    |              |
|---|----|----|----|--------------|
| (a) Periodic age groups                               | .. | .. | .. | 6,585        |
| (b) Specials  | .. | .. | .. | 1,021        |
| (c) TOTAL (Periodic and Specials)                     | .. | .. |    | <u>7,606</u> |
| Number found to require treatment                     | .. | .. |    | 4,058        |
| Number actually treated                               | .. | .. |    | 2,573        |
| Attendances made by pupils for treatment              | .. | .. |    | 3,871        |
| Half-days devoted to : (a) Inspection                 | .. | .. |    | 36           |
| (b) Treatment   | .. | .. |    | 510*         |
| Total (a) and (b)                                     | .. | .. |    | <u>546</u>   |
| Fillings : Permanent teeth                            | .. | .. |    | 1,600        |
| Temporary teeth                                       | .. | .. |    | 22           |
| Total   | .. | .. |    | <u>1,622</u> |
| Extractions : Permanent teeth                         | .. | .. |    | 430          |
| Temporary teeth                                       | .. | .. |    | 3,150        |
| Total   | .. | .. |    | <u>3,580</u> |
| Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction | .. | .. |    | 841          |
| Other Operations : (a) Permanent teeth                | .. | .. |    | 550†         |
| (b) Temporary teeth                                   | .. | .. |    | 443          |
| Total (a) and (b)                                     | .. | .. |    | <u>993</u>   |

\*In addition 44 half-days were devoted by one D/O to the administration of general anaesthetics only.

†This number includes 6 dentures, 22 orthodontic appliances and 4 crowns.

## TABLE V.

## INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

|       |  |        |
|-------|--|--------|
| (i)   | Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons .. .. .                       | 26,129 |
| (ii)  | Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested .. .. .  | 940    |
| (iii) | Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944) .. .. . | —      |
| (iv)  | Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) .. .. .  | —      |



TABLE VI.

## SCHOOL MEDICAL AND DENTAL STAFF.

| <i>Names of Officers</i>  | <i>Proportion of whole time<br/>(expressed as a per-<br/>centage) devoted to</i> |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
|   | <i>School<br/>Health Ser.</i>  | <i>Public<br/>Health</i> |
| <i>School Medical Officer :</i><br>Dr. J. Tudor Lewis, M.D.,<br>D.P.H. .. .. .                      | 35%  | 65%                      |
| <i>Senior Assistant School Medical Officer:</i><br>Dr. C. W. D. Cole, M.R.C.S.,<br>L.R.C.P. .. .. . | 27%  | 73%                      |
| <i>Assistant School Medical Officer :</i><br>Dr. W. J. Morrissey, M.B., B.Ch.,<br>D.P.H. .. .. .    | 65%  | 35%                      |
| <i>Senior Dental Officer :</i><br>G. J. S. Littlefield, L.D.S. ..                                   | 50% West Brom.<br>50% Smethwick.   |                          |
| <i>Assistant Dental Officers :</i><br>T. S. Holt, L.D.S. (till 31-5-48) ..                          | 100%   | —                        |
| E. Sternbach, M.D., L.D.S. (till<br>31-8-48) .. .. .  | 100%   | —                        |

| <i>NURSES</i>      | <i>Number<br/>of<br/>officers</i> | <i>Aggregate of time given to<br/>School Health Service work in<br/>terms of whole time officers</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| School Nurses ..   | 12                                | 5 2/11   |
| District Nurses .. | —                                 | —  |
| Nursing Assistants | —                                 | —  |
| Dental Attendants  | 2                                 | 22/11  |









